

The Alabama Library Association (ALLA) is a non-profit corporation formed to encourage and promote the welfare of libraries and professional interests of librarians in the State of Alabama. The Mission of the Alabama Library Association is to provide leadership for the development, advocacy, and improvement of library and information services and to promote the profession of librarianship, in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.

ALLA COMMUNICATOR

FROM YOUR ALLA PRESIDENT

Daniel Tackett

2020-2021 ALLA President

Fellow Alabama Librarians,

Happy New Year! I believe that I speak for all of us when I say, with extreme happiness, goodbye to the year 2020. Don't let the door hit you on the way out...

In 2021 we have a new beginning for our libraries and the Alabama Library Association. I know many like to make New Year's Resolutions, which will ultimately be unsuccessful a couple of weeks into January, but I want to utilize this unique time to encourage you to get involved in ALLA this year. Many different volunteer opportunities exist within the Association, and it, along with Alabama Librarians in general, has a great need for your exceptional gifts and expertise.

To give a brief background in my road to volunteering, I first served ALLA as the Moderator of the Young Adult Services Roundtable (YASRT), where I organized periodic meetings throughout the year and helped to plan the slate of events the roundtable had for the ALLA convention. After this I moved on to the Youth Services and School Library Division (YSSLD). I was the secretary of the group and was in line to become the Chair-elect/Chair of the Division before I threw my hat into the ring to become President-elect of the Association itself. Throughout these experiences, I have served each level of our organization, learned from our experienced library professionals, and networked with new friends.

These volunteer opportunities are available for each of you, and the beginning of the year is the perfect time to jump on board! Whether you run for an office on our Executive Council, join a Roundtable to become the next great moderator, chair one of our Divisions, or want to lead one of our standing committees, I promise that we have a place for you!

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Facebook.com/
AlabamaLibraryAssociation



Alabama Library Association

**2020/2021 ALLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

OFFICERS

Daniel Tackett
President

Laura Pitts
President-Elect

Jessica Hayes
Past President

Paula Webb
Secretary

Karen Preuss
Treasurer

Emily Allee
Member-at-Large: Central AL

Ashley Cummins
Member-at-Large: North AL

Wendy Congiardo
Member-at-Large: South AL

DIVISION CHAIRPERSONS

Caitlin Rogers
Youth Services & School Library

Alex Boucher
College, University & Special

Katie Bailey
Public Library

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Angela Moore
Association Administrator

Jodi W. Poe
Web Administrator

Paula Laurita
ALA Councilor

Margie Calhoun
SELA Representative

OTHER POSITIONS

Jessica Platt
*Editor of the ALLA COMMunicator
and The Alabama Librarian*

Donnelly Walton
Archivist

Ashley Brown
President, Scholarship Fund, Inc.

FROM YOUR ALLA PRESIDENT *CONTINUED*

So, dive into ALLA wholeheartedly and help us improve our association with your vast skills and abilities. If you have an interest in any of available options, I encourage you to reach out to the current holder of the office and ask them questions regarding the expectations and responsibilities that the job requires of them.

Finally, if you have no idea where to start, please drop me a line, and I'll point you in the right direction!

I look forward to seeing what 2021 has to offer.

Be well,

Daniel Tackett

IMPORTANT ALLA ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are interested in presenting at the 2021 ALLA Virtual Convention (April 28-29), the ALLA Convention Committee encourages you to visit <https://www.allanet.org/annual-convention> for more information. Proposals are due February 15.

The Nominating Committee of ALLA requests nominees for the following 2021-2022 ALLA officers:

*President-Elect

*Secretary

*ALA Councilor

*Member-at-Large, North Alabama

You can find descriptions and duties of these offices in the ALLA Handbook. If interested in nominating yourself, please submit your information using our Nominee Biographical Information form (at allanet.org). If you would like to nominate another individual, please submit their information using our Suggested Nominee Information form. The deadline for nominations is February 19, 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Hayes (jhayes11@aum.edu or 334-244-3814).

IMPORTANT ALLA ANNOUNCEMENTS *CONTINUED*

New Webinar Offered by Government Documents Round Table

Census and Sensibility: Using and Interpreting U.S. Census Records
January 27, 2021, at 10:00 AM

First taken in 1790, the U.S. census is probably a genealogist's most-used resource. Beginners and experts alike use the federal census as the starting point for their research. Learn the ins and outs of the census, how it's changed from year to year (and why it matters), and how to interpret your ancestors' responses. Join ALLA's GODORT for this webinar presented by Mary Beth Newbill.

Register for this webinar at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2541596306590252048>.



***The Alabama Librarian* wants to hear from YOU!**

The Alabama Librarian is ALLA's peer reviewed journal. It is managed by an Editor-in-Chief and an editorial board of peer reviewers and proof-readers. We are currently seeking submissions written by Alabama librarians and/or about librarianship in our state.

Submissions must be:

- ◆ written in APA style,
- ◆ 2,000-5,000 words long,
- ◆ and emailed to thealabamalibrarian@gmail.com.

Find out more about ***The Alabama Librarian*** here:
<https://www.allanet.org/alabama-librarian>

Image by [Cheska Poon](#) from [Pixabay](#)

GET INVOLVED

ALLA Divisions:

YSSLD
*Youth Services & School Librarians
Division*

CUS
*College, University and Special
Libraries*

PLD
Public Library Division

ALLA Roundtables:

ALIRT
Alabama Library Instruction

CDMRT
*Collection Development and
Management*

GODORT
Government Documents

MCRT
Multicultural Information

PART
Paraprofessional

RASRT
Reference and Adult Services

TSSRT
Technical Services & Systems

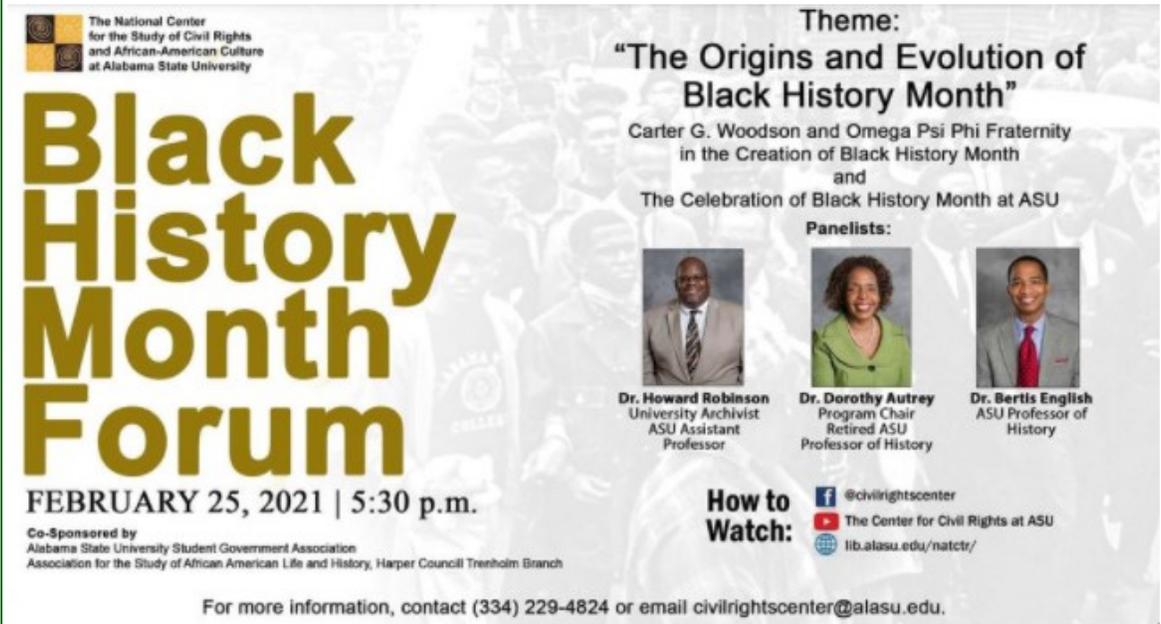
YASRT
Young Adult Services

ALLA Committees:

Association Awards
Authors Awards
Bibliographic
Budget & Finance
Bylaws
Convention
Education
Emeritus Council
(Formerly Past Presidents)
Employee Evaluation
Handbook
Intellectual Freedom
Legislative Development
Membership
Nominating
Planning
Public Relations
Publications

To get involved with an ALLA
Committee, fill out the Committee
Interest form at:
[https://goo.gl/forms/
tS79Dg6YqFbjiS812](https://goo.gl/forms/tS79Dg6YqFbjiS812)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH FORUM



The National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African-American Culture at Alabama State University

Black History Month Forum

Theme:
“The Origins and Evolution of Black History Month”
 Carter G. Woodson and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in the Creation of Black History Month and The Celebration of Black History Month at ASU

Panelists:

		
Dr. Howard Robinson University Archivist ASU Assistant Professor	Dr. Dorothy Autrey Program Chair Retired ASU Professor of History	Dr. Bertis English ASU Professor of History

How to Watch: @civilrightscenter, The Center for Civil Rights at ASU, lib.alasu.edu/natctr/

FEBRUARY 25, 2021 | 5:30 p.m.

Co-Sponsored by
 Alabama State University Student Government Association
 Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Harper Council Trenholm Branch

For more information, contact (334) 229-4824 or email civilrightscenter@alasu.edu.

The National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African American Culture at Alabama State University will celebrate Black History Month with a virtual program titled “The Origins and Evolution of Black History Month.”

The program, held in collaboration with the ASU Student Government Association, and the Harper Council Trenholm Branch of the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History, will be held February 25, at 5:30 CST on Facebook Live (@CivilRightsCenter) and on YouTube Premiere.

This collaborative event discusses the origins of Black History Month with Carter G. Woodson and its association with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The program will also look at how the celebration has expanded from a week to the entire month of February and how it has been commemorated at Alabama State University.

For more information, contact Destiny Williams at (334) 229-6888 or dwilliams@alasu.edu.

ASU & POWER OF LIFE GIVE AWAY 30,000 MASKS

Alabama State University partnered with the Power of Life Foundation to distribute 30,000 masks and bags of food to residents of Montgomery. The Foundation was founded by ASU alumnus, actor and motivational speaker, Lane Harper. Harper also is a veteran officer with the Birmingham Police Department. Hundreds of cars lined up early to receive the donations. The event also featured a live DJ. Volunteers included Stinger, the ASU cheerleaders, the CommUniversity Committee and Board of Trustee member, Delbert Madison. It's a Great Time to Be a Hornet!



DOROTHY B. PORTER: DEWEY DECIMAL DECOLONIZER

In 1932, Dorothy Porter earned an M.S. in library science from Columbia University and became their library school's first black graduate. However, she may be best known as the librarian who changed how works by black writers are classified. Overall, Porter's classification method challenged the inherent racism and colonial gatekeeping of knowledge within the Dewey Decimal System.

Most of Porter's library career was spent building the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University into a world-class research collection on Black/Africana history and culture. A substantial portion of the library's collection was gifted by Howard alumnus, Reverend Jesse E. Moorland and NAACP's legal committee chairman Arthur B. Spingarn. These acquisitions were the backbone of the university's library. Porter was concerned with assigning proper value and classification to the collection. However, at the time of acquisition, no other library in the country had expertise in properly classifying works by black authors.



Every library Porter consulted for classification guidance relied solely on the Dewey Decimal Classification. In that system, black scholarly work was classified using either the number 326 that meant slavery or the number 325 for colonization. For Porter, it became necessary to develop a satisfactory classification workaround for this collection that did not reimpose stereotypes of black culture that prevailed within the Dewey Decimal System. Porter classified works within the collection by genre and author in order to highlight the role of black people in all subject areas like art, education, history, medicine, music, and even literature. This approach helped to combat racist stereotypes and false narratives while celebrating black self-representation.

During her over 40-year library career, Dorothy Porter devoted herself to developing a modern research library at Howard University. Not only did she build a world-renowned library for special collections of the global black experience, she also became a pioneer in the field of library science through her challenge of the racial bias within the Dewey Decimal System.

<https://bookriot.com/pioneering-black-american-librarians/>

BLACK LIBRARIANS OF NOTE



Carla Hayden is the 14th Librarian of Congress. She is the first woman and the first Black American librarian to hold the position. Prior to this appointment, Hayden was the Executive Director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Maryland. Hayden also served as president of the American Library Association from 2003 to 2004 where she was a vocal public opponent of the Patriot Act, which would give the Justice Department and the FBI the power to access library user records.



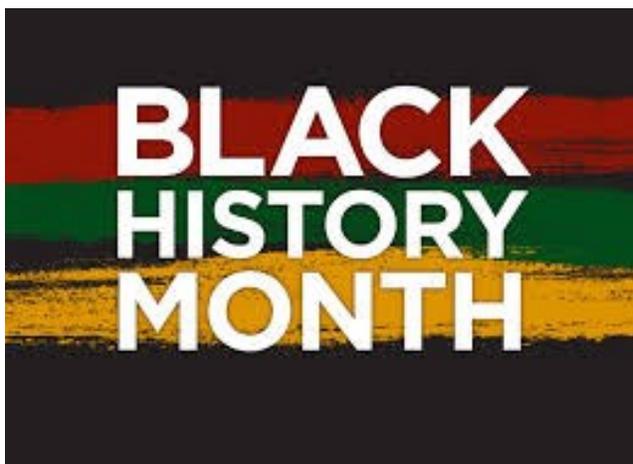
Clara Jones was a pioneer during every step of her life and career in library science. After receiving a degree in Library Science from the University of Michigan, Jones accepted the position as director of the Detroit Public Library and became the first black director of a major city public library. Soon after becoming director of the Detroit Public Library, Jones was elected the first black president of the American Library Association. During segregation in St. Louis, she chose to attend school at the Milwaukee State Teachers College, where she was one of six Black students, instead of the local teachers college designated for Black students. Jones wanted to be an elementary school teacher, but decided to become a librarian instead of a teacher after transferring to Spelman College. During her tenure as director and president, Jones worked to desegregate libraries and their services as well as improve library culture by encouraging the ALA to pass the “Resolution on Racism and Sexism Awareness.”

BLACK LIBRARIANS OF NOTE *CONTINUED*



Edward C. Williams was not only a successful professional librarian during the time of segregation, he was also a social activist, author, and translator. He constantly addressed the challenges faced by libraries patronized by black people like deteriorating buildings, staff shortages, and lack of funding. Williams was also heavily involved with several library associations. He was a founding member of the Ohio Library Association and was an active member of the American Library Association.

In 1999, *American Libraries* named Williams as one of the “100 Most Important Leaders We Had in the 20th Century.” His novel *The Letters of Davy Carr* was rediscovered in 2004 and published as *When Washington Was in Vogue*. The discovery helped to establish Williams’s place in the canon of Harlem Renaissance literature.



<https://bookriot.com/pioneering-black-american-librarians/>

NEW YEAR, NEW FUN AT THE ALABASTER LIBRARY

Contributed by Frances Smith

Youth Services Librarian, Albert L. Scott Library

All of the events below were livestreamed on our library's Facebook page:

facebook.com/AlbertLScottLibrary/live

Mighty Milk Monday!

National Milk Day on January 11 was celebrated at the Albert L. Scott Library in Alabaster by learning about milk from all kinds of animals, reading library books, making a craft, and sharing an ice cream recipe. Youth services librarian Frances Smith led the program on the library's Facebook page facebook.com/AlbertLScottLibrary/live. She read *Ernestine's Milky Way* written by Kerry Madden-Lunsford and *The Milk Makers* by Gail Gibbons. She also demonstrated how to make marbled milk paper.



Fun Food Craft at Story Time

Reading friends have fun making snowmen with marshmallows, pretzels, and candy during Sensory Story Time on January 13. They added their creations to cups of hot cocoa. Sensory Story Time is held the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at 3:30 p.m.

Name Game

Names are important. That is why that topic was the focus during the January 21 session of the *Civic Life Read to Lead Book Club* at the Albert L. Scott Library. Youth services librarian Frances Smith and Abby Holcombe of the David Mathews Center for Civic Life presented 'Claim Your Name'. They combined reading, chatting, tongue twisters, and name crafts on the library's Facebook page. The next session is February 18 at 4:00 p.m.



NEW HOURS & SERVICES AT THE BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Birmingham Public Library is implementing new in-person and curbside service days and hours, effective beginning Monday, February 22, 2021. The hours for curbside check-out of library materials and in-person visits to check out books, DVDs, and get library services such as printing and computer usage are as follows:

Avonale, Five Points West, Southside, Springville Road Libraries

Monday – Friday
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Central Library

Monday – Saturday
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

East Ensley, Ensley, Inglenook, North Avondale, Powderly, West End and Woodlawn Libraries

Tuesday and Thursday
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

East Lake, North Birmingham, Pratt City, Smithfield, Titusville, and Wylam Libraries

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Some BPL locations, such as the Central Library downtown, also offer services such as notaries and passport applications. Click here for details <https://bplolinews.blogspot.com/2021/01/notary-services-available-at-birmingham.html>

Remember even when our libraries are closed physically, BPL remains open virtually 24 hours a day, seven days a week on our website at www.cobpl.org, on our mobile app and our social media websites including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter @BPL.

ALLA COMMUNICATOR SUBMISSIONS

Please feel free to submit your library-related news to:
communicator.alla@gmail.com
Submissions must include:

- Your Name
- Job Title
- Library or organization name
- Contact Email and Phone
- Article in PDF or Word
- .jpg images may be attached
- Description of images

ALLA COMMUNICATOR PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

Edition	Submission Deadline	Publication Date
Jul/Aug/Sep	Mid-June	July
Oct/Nov/Dec	Mid-Sept.	October
Jan/Feb/Mar	Mid-Dec.	January
Apr/May/June	Mid-March	April

UPCOMING EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

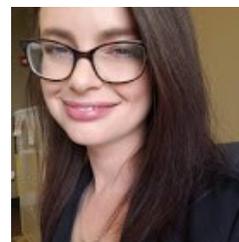
Friday, March 5, 2021

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM CDT

Transition Meeting Date/Time
TBD

FROM THE EDITOR

*Contributed by Jessica Platt,
Education Doctoral Librarian
Alabama State University*



You may have heard about The REALM Project. In case you haven't, **REopening Archives, Libraries, and Museums (REALM)** is a research project conducted by OCLC, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and Battelle to produce science-based information about how materials can be handled to mitigate COVID-19 exposure to staff and visitors of archives, libraries, and museums.

The REALM Project's new study has found that stacking returned library materials causes the virus to stay on these materials even after 6 days of quarantine. This includes hardcover books, softcover books, plastic protective covers, and DVD cases. The previous study performed by the REALM Project found that leaving returned library materials *unstacked* causes the virus to leave the materials within 3 days. So, it's safe to say that leaving returned items unstacked decreases the chances of library staff and patrons becoming infected with Covid-19.

To learn about REALM's Toolkit for Libraries, including reopening considerations and useful information on social distancing, virtual programming, and cleaning and disinfecting library materials, visit this website: <https://www.oclc.org/realm/home.html>.

Sincere thanks go out to Michelle Hamrick for proofreading this issue of *The ALLA COMMunicator*.

You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending. -- C.S. Lewis

ITEMS OF NOTE

2021 Annual Convention

Libraries for All:
Working and Rebuilding Through
Change

**THE 2021 VIRTUAL ANNUAL
CONVENTION WILL BE ON
APRIL 28-29, 2021.**